

## Home Circle.

### OUR HOMES.

J. J. VANDERREE.

Our homes are of different kinds. Man from first to last is destined to be the possessor of *five* different kinds of homes. And now kind reader, if you will lend me a few moments of your spare time and a little attention, we will try and make an explanation in our weak way, of the different homes mentioned above. We will begin with the home No. 1. This is our natural body which is or should be a home for the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. These homes have to from first to last, be nourished, (and should be) cherished as purposed by our creator. This kind of a home which is made of clay, is according to divine writ, fearfully and wonderfully made, truly a masterpiece of mechanism are they not? And how really few people who understand their own-selves as they ought. It does seem to me if we all understood ourselves, our own bodies better and treat them better, we would all be better off. This home is destined to moulder back again to old earth.

The second home which we will call your attention to, is this earth. Neither is this our abiding place forever yet for a while, yes for a lifetime, we will be here, and so well may it be called a temporary home for our bodies to dwell on, and prepare the soul for a future destiny. This home is also to change its present form. See I Peter 3: 7-12 inclusive. These homes are alike to all.

Next comes our home No. 3, which we please to call our houses which we live in while on earth. This also is a thing we have, while it is the fact that some good and some bad and indifferent have palatial homes and some but mere cottages and rent. They all must have a place to dwell at. The owning of this kind of a home is not always obtained by being good, nor is it obtained by being bad, only in the case of the criminal. These houses are made of different material, as stone, brick, tile, wood, reed, sod and even ice as in the case of the Laplander and Esquimaux. These houses are also bound to destruction; are liable to burn, to be blown to atoms, to decay, etc. But for all this, how careful we are in building them, both as to foundation and material, so that as far as we are concerned they may be lasting, so that when we get through with them they may be handed down to our children and be of use to them after we are no more. We are sure as far as we are able to fix them up to the best of our ability. We paint and decorate them out-

side and inside and furnish them to beat all, in some cases, to suit our different tastes, so that they may both be useful, comfortable and ornamental. But when the time comes that we will have no more use for this kind of a home, then it is that we (as a rule) are carried to our *fourth* home which is the grave. This home according to divine writ will be a long one; that is long in duration. The reader is here referred to Ecclesiastes 12: 5, for further information. Certain it is that all will stay there until the time when God shall send Jesus Christ, whom the heavens must receive, until the restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets, since the world began, when the time will be when this mortal shall put on immortality and the victory over this home shall be ours, then we may say, "O grave where is thy victory." Read I Cor. 15: 54, 55.

This brings us to the fifth and last, as well as best home of the soul. The home which our dear Lord has gone to prepare for those that love him and keep his commandments. This home will not be a country home but a home in the city whose builder and maker is God. A home wherein are many mansions, yes plenty of room for all who will come. This will be our city of refuge; this is the city to which we can fly for safety and from all oppression of the enemy of our soul. For a full description of this city see Rev. 21. Our joy will be full when we will enter in there and greet our loved ones again who have gone on before us. Take courage you disconsolate one, for ere long we will be permitted to enter in through the gates into the city if we continue faithful to the end.

Our friends on earth we meet with pleasure,  
While swift the moments fly,  
Yet ever comes the thought of sadness,  
That we must say good-bye.

How joyful is the thought that lingers,  
When loved ones cross death's sea,  
That when our labors here are ended,  
With them we'll ever be.

No parting words will e'er be spoken  
In that bright land of flowers;  
But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness,  
Shall ever more be ours.

We'll never say good-bye in heaven,  
We'll never say good-bye;  
For in that land of joy and song,  
We'll never say good-bye.

Cornell, Ill.

WHEREVER we are, in whatever spot of all the wilderness, this word to Hagar, "What aileth thee?" is meant for us. Arise, lift up your duty, your responsibility, your trial, your tear; then will the Lord work for you gloriously,—*Anna Warner.*

### PERSONAL WORK.

There is nothing in a Christian's life that is more profitable to the church, or more pleasing to God than personal Christian work. In that is the key to success in all lines of business. The farmer attends to his affairs in person and makes a success of it. The merchant stands behind his counter and superintends his work and succeeds in business. God sits upon his throne and directs the universe, and day comes and goes, and the seasons change with the utmost precision. The earnest child of God goes about seeking the unsaved and taking them to God in prayer. He teaches them the way of life and has souls for his hire. Sometimes we say that we can't do personal work; we can't talk to a man about his soul, and eternity, and death.

If a man had his hand in such a position that you knew it would be crushed or severed from his arm, could you talk to him about his hand, and the pain he would experience? Certainly you could, and you would not hesitate a moment to think about the propriety of it. You would warn him at once. Is a man's hand of more value than his soul? Is the pain of such an accident more severe, or has it more terrors than an endless eternity of agony? Still some will insist that they just can not do work of that kind. My pen can not write these words alone, but it does exceedingly well if I direct it. My friend, let God use you, as you would use a saw or an ax. Let him be the power that impels you and you will surmount all obstacles. I hear some one say, "Oh, I am willing that God should use me." I took a ride a week ago out over the prairies of S. Dakota, behind a span of very willing horses. They had to be cornered and driven into the barn, however, before they could be caught. Does God have to follow you all day or all year and then corner you by some calamity before you manifest your willingness to work for him? How is it dear reader; are you doing God's work? If not, why not? Will you return your soul to God and say as the servant did with the one talent? (Matt. 25: 24-25.) Are you hiding your talent where he hid his? Suppose you try another plan. Go to God and say as David did, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. \* \* \* Then I will teach the transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

WESLEY WINE.

VICE stings even in our pleasure.

THE best preparation for the future is the present well seen to, the last duty well done.—*George MacDonald.*